

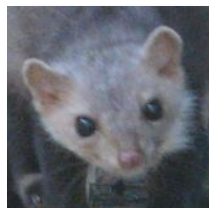
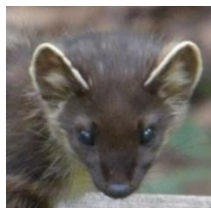
PINE OR STONE MARTEN?

- helpful distinguishing features -

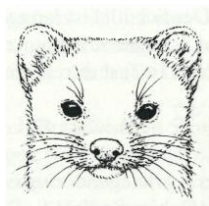
PINE MARTEN

STONE MARTEN

Photos: Aktion
Fischotterschutz e.V.



Illustrations:
Herrmann 2005



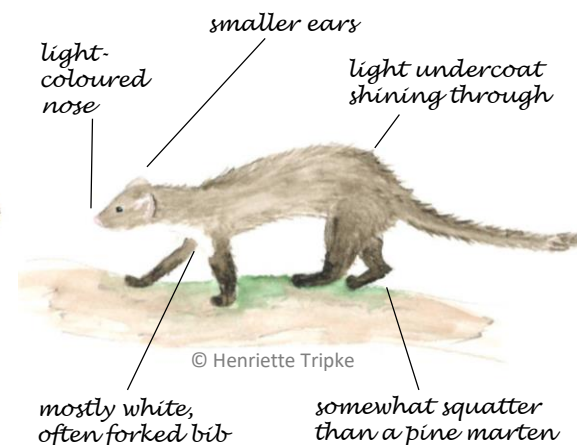
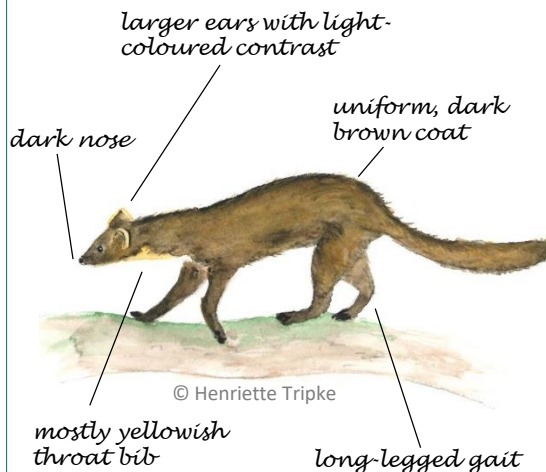
The pine marten's **nose** is darkish (brown), whereas the stone marten's is lighter-coloured (light peach/pink/flesh-coloured). This makes the noses a reliable distinguishing feature. In dead animals or specimens, however, it becomes discoloured and darkens.

The **ears** of the pine marten are longer and stand close together on the forehead. Due to the light-coloured hairs on the inside of their ears and on the upper edge, they contrast more with its coat. The stone marten's ears are smaller and sit further apart on the head.

The pine marten's **head** appears narrower and more pointed, and it has smaller, almond-shaped eyes. The stone marten has a relatively flat and broad-looking head, with large round eyes.

PINE MARTEN

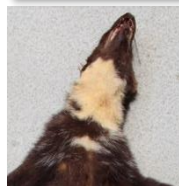
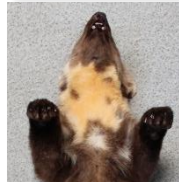
STONE MARTEN



PINE MARTEN

STONE MARTEN

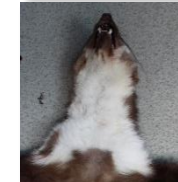
Photos: Aktion
Fischotterschutz e.V.



The **throat bib** basically shows great individual variability in colour, shape and size, but can give an indication of the species.

Pine martens usually colour the patch on their throat an egg-yolk to reddish-yellow, with a secretion from an abdominal gland. However, the colour may fade over time. The shape of the bib is often irregular, it is not forked, and it dissolves partially into a pattern of single spots.

The throat marking of the stone marten is mostly white. It is often forked and may extend down the forelegs. In rare cases, stone martens also colour their bibs yellow, however (bottom right).



Photos: Aktion
Fischotterschutz e.V.

PINE OR STONE MARTEN?

- helpful distinguishing features -

The **hair on the underside of the paws** can differ considerably between the two species. However, this is also subject to seasonal and individual fluctuations and is therefore not a clear distinguishing feature.

PINE MARTEN

- ❖ the pads of the toes are often hidden by dense fur
- ❖ in optimum cases, its "furry track" can be recognised in snow or soft soil



STONE MARTEN

- ❖ toe pads not covered by fur
- ❖ in optimum cases, the pads of the toes are clearly visible in its tracks



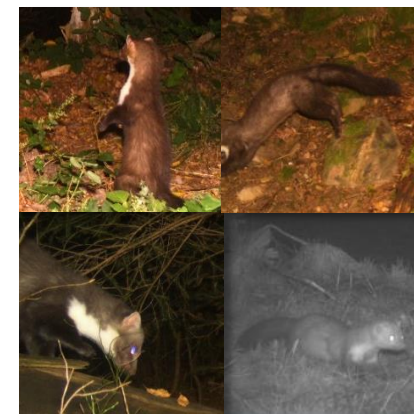
It's not always that easy...

PINE MARTEN



...because martens can rarely be observed directly over a long period of time. Even on photos (e.g. from wildlife cameras) not all features are always recognisable, or the picture quality is poor.

STONE MARTEN



PINE MARTEN



Pine martens have a dark brown **topcoat** with a very dense, yellowish brown to reddish grey **undercoat**. All in all, its coat thus appears to be uniformly brown. The undercoat on its belly may turn orange like the bib marking on its throat.



STONE MARTEN



Stone martens have a less dense, brown topcoat, which their white undercoat (patchy) shines through. Their coat thus appears to be less uniform in colour. Overall it is greyish brown to grey. The light-coloured undercoat of the stone marten is often easy to recognise in (colour) photos.

Literature:

Birks, Johnny; Griffiths, Antony; Whittaker, Terry (2017): *Pine martens*. Stansted, Essex: Whittet Books Ltd (The British natural history collection, volume 8).
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Stubbe, Michael; Niethammer, Jochen; Demeter, András (Hg.) (1993): *Handbuch der Säugetiere Europas. Teil (I)*. Wiesbaden: Aula-Verl.
Van Maanen, E. (2012). *Ondercheid tussen boom- en steenmarter in de hand, in het veld en op foto*. Jaarbrief WBN van de Zoogdiervereeniging over 2012: 66-75.

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